

Appl. No.: 10/733,697
Amdt. dated July 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 28, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Election Requirement

Non-elected method Claims 34-36 have been cancelled to facilitate the prosecution of the present application. However, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of these non-elected Claims.

The IDS

The Applicant has no objection to the cancellation of citation number 27 from the IDS filed December 27, 2006.

Claim Objections and §112 Rejections

All of the claims which were subject to the indicated objections and rejections have been amended, or presented as new claims, and it is believed that all of the objections and grounds for the rejections have been addressed and overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 3 as being non-enabled, Claim 2, from which Claim 3 depends, has been amended to describe the embodiment of Fig. 1, which includes a controller 15 for controlling the operation of the regenerative heater, and a temperature sensor 19 connected to the controller 15. The subject matter of Claim 3 is thus seen to be fully enabled.

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The §102 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-18, 24, 30, 31, 32, and 33 were rejected as being anticipated by Landoni '347; Claims 1-18, 20-21, 30-33 were rejected as being anticipated by Krauss '050; and Claims 1-6, 13, 15-18, 30-33 were rejected as being anticipated by Keilert '132.

An important feature of the present invention which is missing from all of these cited prior patents is the fact that in the present invention, both the operational heating and the regeneration heating involve the direct contact and direct heating of the spin pump 4 and distribution lines 5. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in the cited prior patents. For example, in the case of Landoni '347, the secondary heater at 9 heats the spinneret 10 but not the pump 7 and lines 6,6'. In the case of Krauss, a first temperature control arrangement 96 (Fig. 4) is provided that serves to heat the spin pack 24, and a second temperature control arrangement 100 is provided for heating the plate assembly 56 which is intermediate the pump 18 and the spin pack 24. Also, a further temperature control arrangement 92 is provided which maintains the temperature of the pump well 84 at a predetermined ambient temperature, note column 5, lines 39-41. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing both an operational heater and a regenerative heater for heating the pump and distribution lines and so as to permit removal of organic deposits in the pump and distribution lines, as presently claimed.

The Keilert patent discloses a heatable melter 1 which includes a nozzle plate 10,26 for extruding a plurality of plastic strands and which can be sealed off with a removable

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cover 18,30. The nozzle plate and the cover are each provided with a separate heating or cooling system 4,17,20,29,31 whereby the temperatures of each is separately regulated. The Keilert patent however does not disclose a spin beam having a spin pump connected to a plurality of distribution lines, and both an operational heater and regenerative heater for heating the pump and lines, as claimed.

New base Claim 37 has been drafted to highlight the above distinctions, and it is believed that Claim 37 clearly and patentably defines over each of the three cited references.

The §103 Rejections

Original Claim 26 was rejected upon a proposed combination of the three above patents in combination with Zimmer '453, and Claims 19 and 27-29 were rejected upon a proposed combination of the three above patents with Flakne '068. However, the secondary references to Zimmer and Flakne do not supply the deficiencies of the three primary references as noted above.

The Amendment to the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9 has been amended to clarify the meaning of the term "Diphyl" by pointing out that the term is a trademark of Lanxess Deutschland GmbH and is used in association with a family of heat transfer fluids. Since the revision involves only a clarification of the previously used term, no new matter has been added.

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Conclusion

The provisional allowance of dependent Claims 22, 23 and 25 is noted with appreciation. The subject matter of Claims 22 and 25 now appears in new Claims 41 and 43 respectively.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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